IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~increasing the frequency of~~ myogenic conversion of genetically modified dermal fibroblasts comprising:

ex-vivo transduction of dermal fibroblasts with a therapeutic gene or a gene capable of correcting a gene defect, to produce transduced fibroblasts; and

transiently infecting said transduced fibroblasts with a vector containing a muscle lineage commitment gene under the control of a strong promoter, said vector being selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus vector, a baculovirus vector and an adeno-associated viral vector,

wherein said genetically modified dermal fibroblasts are myogenically converted at a rate of greater than 40%.

Claim 12 (canceled).

13. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 11, wherein the vector is an adenovirus vector.

14. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 11, wherein the muscle linage commitment gene is selected from the group consisting of MyoD, Myf-5, MRF4 and myogenin.

15. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 14, wherein said gene is MyoD.

16. (Previously Added) A method according to claim 11, wherein said promoter is a viral promoter.

17. (Currently Amended) A genetically- modified fibroblast transduced with a therapeutic gene or a gene capable of correcting a gene target, said genetically-modified fibroblast transiently expressing a muscle lineage commitment gene.

18. (Previously Added) A fibroblast according to claim 17, wherein the muscle lineage commitment gene is MyoD.

19. (new) A genetically-modified dermal fibroblast transiently expressing a muscle lineage commitment gene.

20. (new) A fibroblast according to claim 19, wherein the muscle lineage commitment gene is MyoD.

21. (new) A fibroblast of claim 19 wherein said muscle lineage commitment gene is selected from the group consisting of MyoD, Myf-5, MRF4 and myogenin.

22. (new) A fibroblast of claim 17 wherein said muscle lineage commitment gene is selected from the group consisting of MyoD, Myf-5, MRF4 and myogenin.